

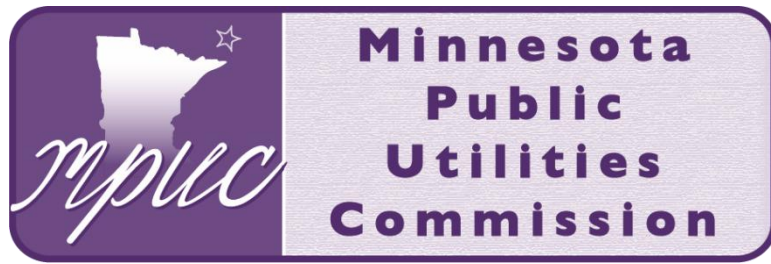
Public Information and Scoping Meeting

Elko, New Market, Cleary Transmission Line Project

Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Docket Numbers:

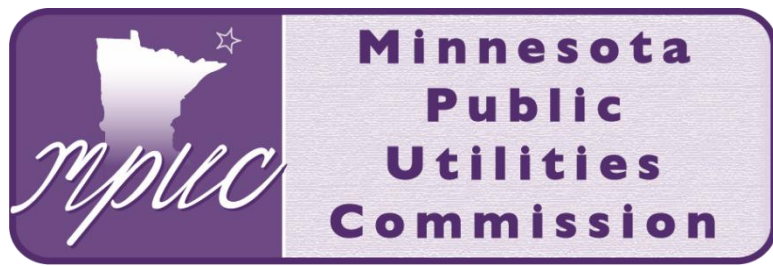
ET-2/CN-12-1235
ET-2/TL-12-1245

October 1, 2013
Elko New Market, Savage



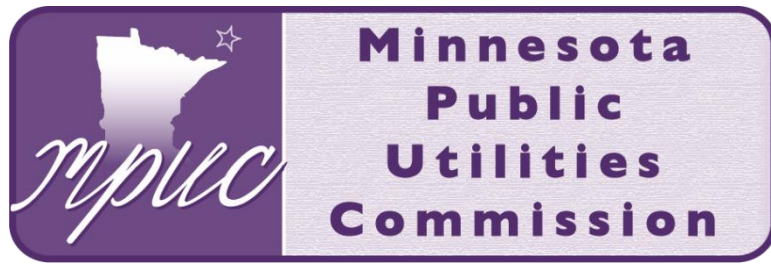
AGENDA

- ▶ Introduction – Public Utilities Commission
- ▶ Certificate of Need and Route Permit Roles and Process – Public Utilities Commission
- ▶ Project Summary – Great River Energy
- ▶ Environmental Review – Department of Commerce
- ▶ Citizen Comments and Questions



Public Utilities Commission

- ▶ Regulates
 - Permitting for power plants, pipelines, transmission lines
 - Local and in-state long distance telephone companies
 - Investor-owned electric and natural gas utilities
- ▶ 5 Commissioners
 - Appointed by the Governor
 - Serve staggered terms
 - Full time employment
- ▶ 50 staff



Who's Who?

- ▶ **Applicant** – Company asking for Certificate of Need and Transmission Line Route Permit – *Great River Energy*
- ▶ **Department of Commerce Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (EERA)** – State agency, conducts environmental review
- ▶ **Department of Commerce Energy Regulation & Planning** – State agency, represents the public interest when utilities ask to change rates, services, facilities
- ▶ **Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH)** – State agency, Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) holds hearings, summarizes the facts in the record, makes recommendations to Public Utilities Commission



Who's Who?

- ▶ **Public Utilities Commission (PUC)** – State agency, five Commissioners appointed by Governor, makes decision on certificate of need and route permit
- ▶ **Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Public Advisor** – Helps citizens participate in the certificate of need and route permit processes. Neutral party, does not give legal advice, not an advocate.
- ▶ **Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Staff Analyst** – Assists in building the record. Informs Commissioners on impacts of different decisions. Neutral party, does not give legal advice, not an advocate.

Large Energy Facility

- Transmission line with capacity of 200 kilovolts (kV) or more *and*
- Greater than 1500 feet in length

–OR–

- Transmission line with capacity of 100 kV or more *and*
- More than 10 miles of its length in Minnesota *or* crosses state line
- Requires **Certificate of Need** from Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
 - Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 216B
 - Minnesota Rules, Part 7849



High Voltage Transmission Line

- Will operate at 100 kV or more *and*
- Greater than 1500 feet in length
- Requires **Route Permit** from Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
 - Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 216E
 - Minnesota Rules, Part 7850

Route Permit Includes...

- ▶ Permitted Route
 - Location of a high voltage transmission line between two end points
 - Route width may vary, up to 1.25 miles

- ▶ Right-of-Way
 - Land required within a route for the construction, maintenance, and operation of a high voltage transmission line

- ▶ Anticipated Alignment
 - The anticipated location of the lines and poles

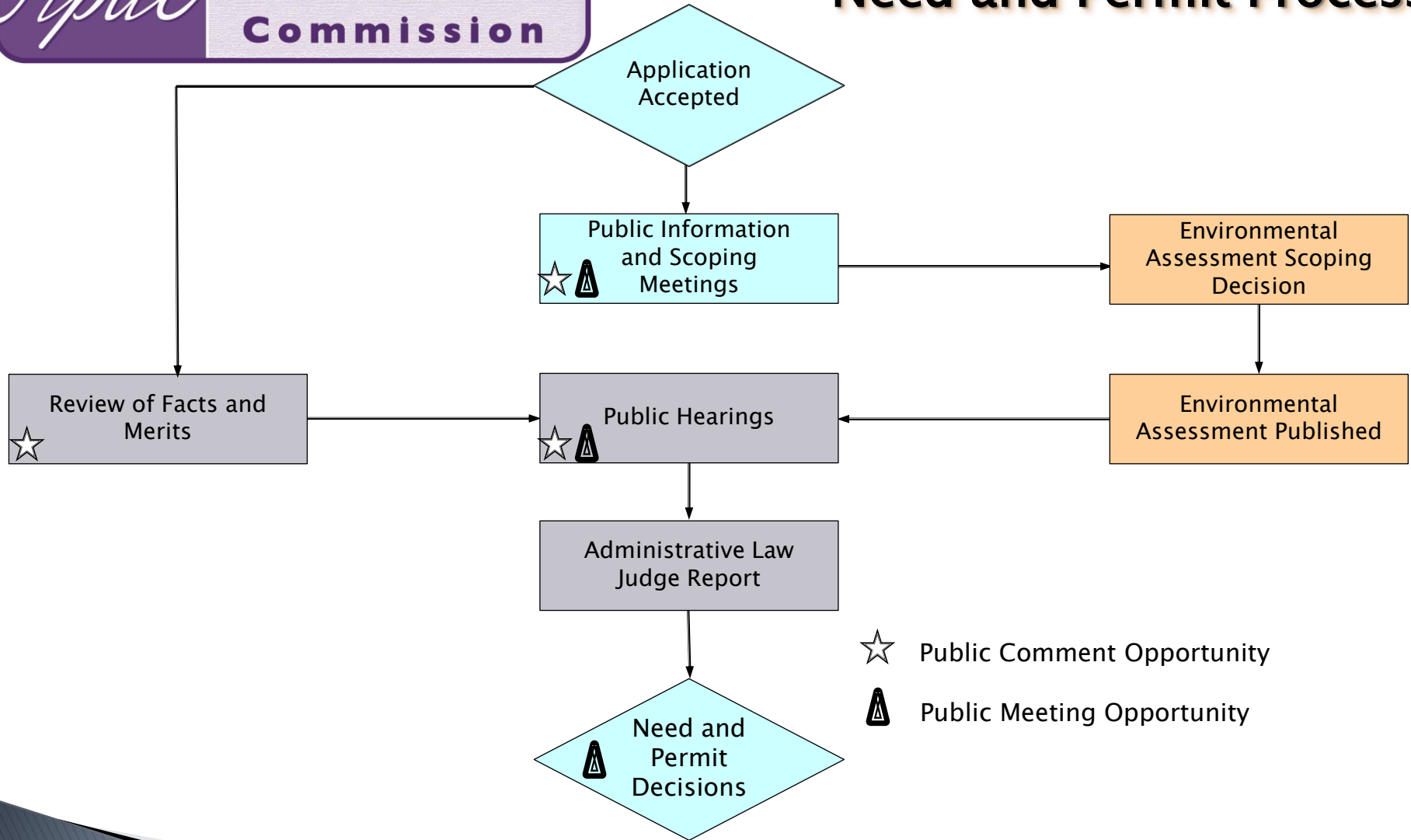
Factors considered in Public Utilities Commission's decision on the **need** and **route**

- ▶ Human settlement – displacement, noise, aesthetics, cultural values, recreation, public services
- ▶ Public health and safety
- ▶ Economy– agriculture, forestry, tourism, mining
- ▶ Archaeological and historic resources
- ▶ Natural environment – air and water quality, flora and fauna

Factors considered (continued)

- ▶ Design options to maximize efficiencies and allow for future expansion
- ▶ Use of existing rights-of-way
- ▶ Use of natural boundaries, e.g., survey lines, field boundaries
- ▶ Electrical system reliability
- ▶ Costs of constructing, operating, and maintaining the transmission line

High Voltage Transmission Line Need and Permit Process



Application Acceptance to Permit Decision = 9-12 months

Estimated Project Timeline

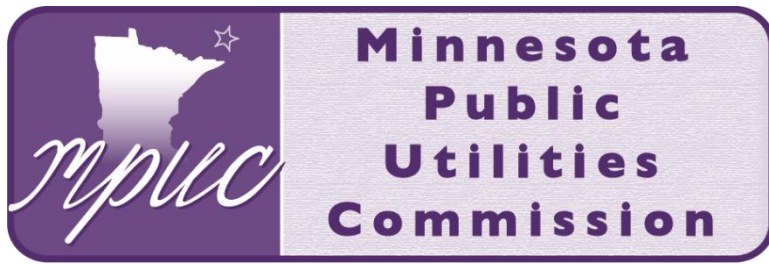
Certificate of Need and Route Permit Applications Filed	June 2013
Certificate of Need and Route Permit Applications Accepted	September 2013
*Public Information & Scoping Meetings	October 1, 2013
Comment Period Closes	October 15, 2013
Scope of Environmental Assessment	November 2013
Environmental Assessment Published	February 2014
Public Hearings	February 2014
Administrative Law Judge Report	March 2014
Certificate of Need and Permit Decisions	June 2014

How do I get more information?

- ▶ Department of Commerce Project Website
 - <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/Docket.html?Id=32989>
- ▶ See all documents related to this project
 - www.puc.state.mn.us
 - Select *Search eDockets*
 - Enter the year and the Docket Number
 - 12 is the year and 1235 is the number for certificate of need
 - 12 is the year and 1245 is the number for route permit
 - Select *Search*, and the list of documents will appear on the next page

How do I get more information?

- ▶ Subscribe to receive e-mail notification when new documents are added to the Docket
 - www.puc.state.mn.us
 - Select *Subscribe to a Docket*
 - Subscribe by Docket Number
 - 12 is the year and 1235 is the number for certificate of need
 - 12 is the year and 1245 is the number for route permit



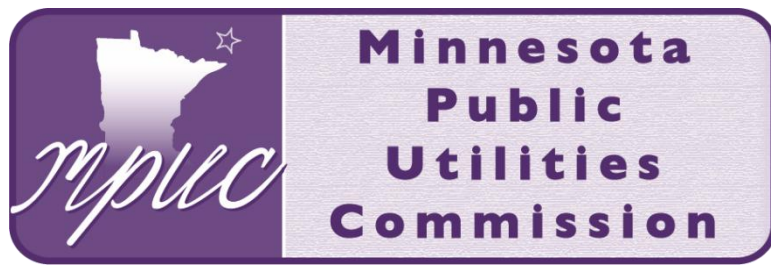
How do I get more information?

- ▶ Project Mailing List – Receive information about project milestones and opportunities for citizen participation
 - Complete and return “Project Mailing List” card
 - Contact the Public Utilities Commission
 - consumer.puc@state.mn.us
 - 651-296-0406 or 1-800-657-3782
 - Sign up online
 - mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/#mailing

Additional Resources

- ▶ Department of Commerce
mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/
- ▶ Minnesota Statutes and Rules
www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/
- ▶ Public Utilities Commission
www.puc.state.mn.us





PUC Project Contacts

Public Advisor
Public Utilities Commission
Tracy M.B. Smetana
consumer.puc@state.mn.us
Phone 651-296-0406
Toll Free 1-800-657-3782

Staff Analyst – Certificate of Need
Public Utilities Commission
Scott Ek
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Phone 651-201-2255

Staff Analyst – Route Permit
Public Utilities Commission
Hwikwon Ham
hwikwon.ham@state.mn.us
Phone 651-201-2253

Great River Energy Contacts

Elko New Market and Cleary Lake Areas Project

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GREAT RIVER ENERGY

**ELKO NEW MARKET
AND
CLEARY LAKE AREAS
115 kV TRANSMISSION LINE
PROJECT**

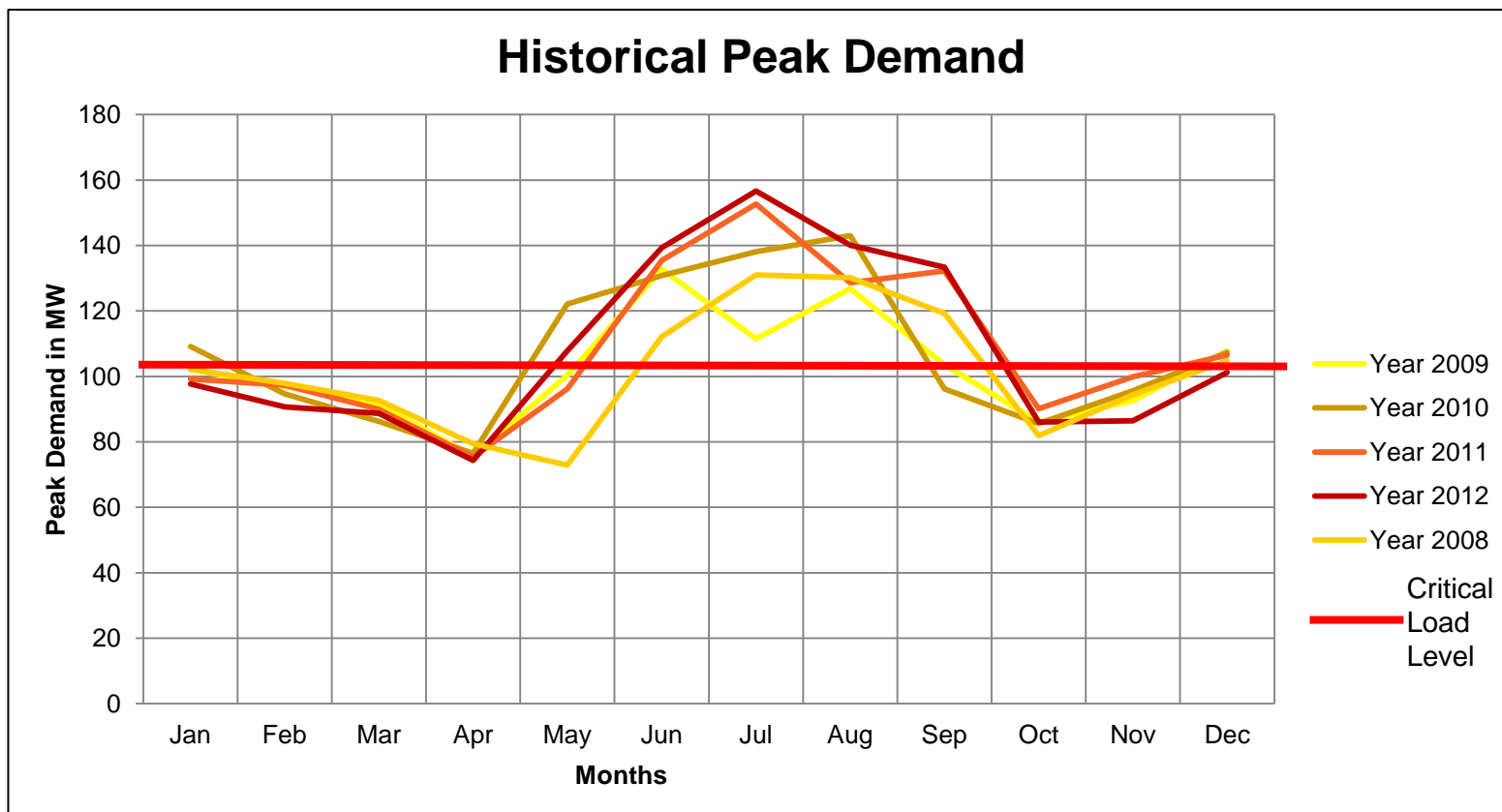
**MPUC DOCKET NOS.
ET2/CN-12-1235 & ET2/TL-12-1245**



Project Need

- Existing 69 kilovolt (kV) transmission lines in the Project area were constructed in 1960s and 1970s.
- Historic peak demand, particularly in the summer months, has exceeded the critical load levels of the existing transmission system.

Historical Peak Demand

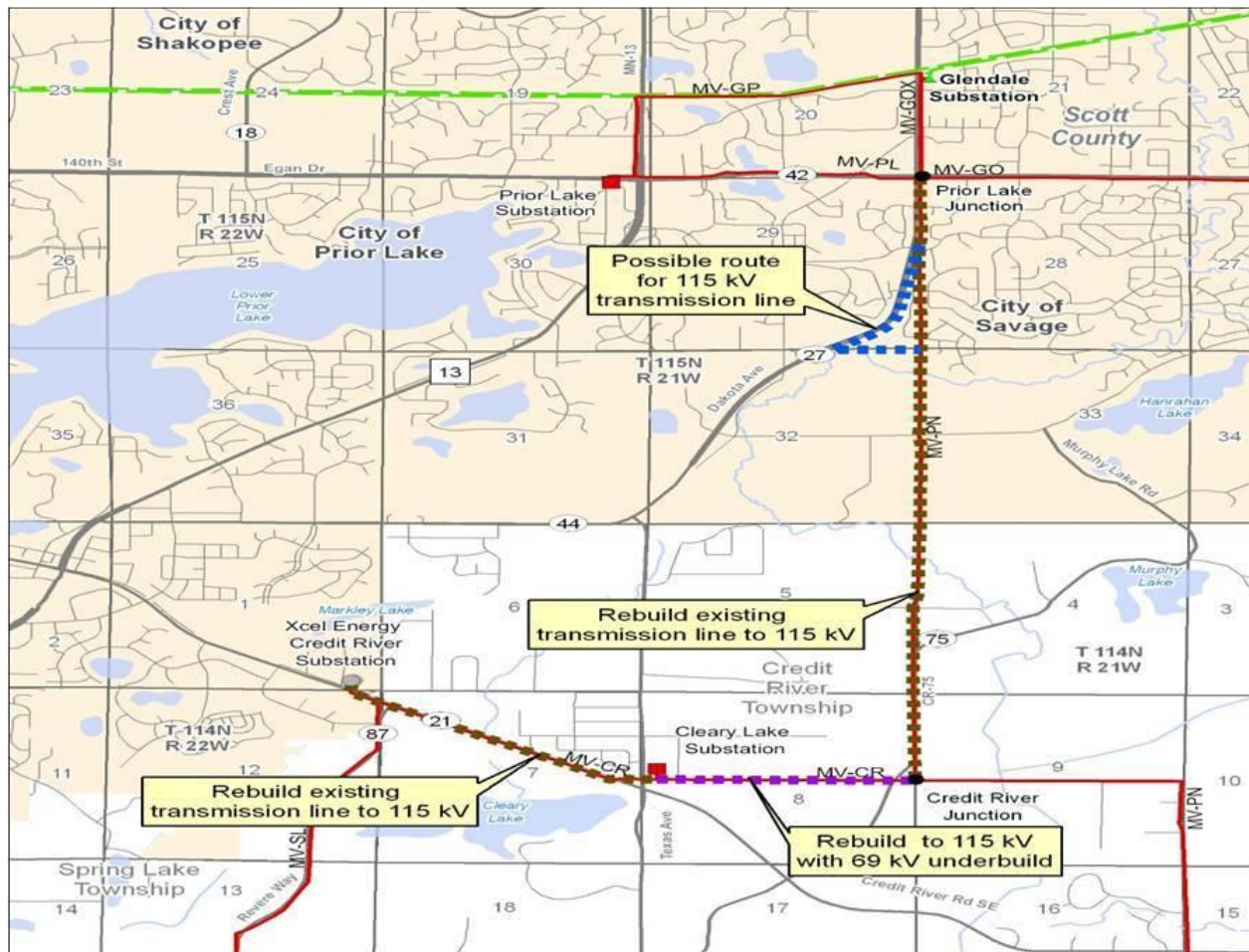


Solution

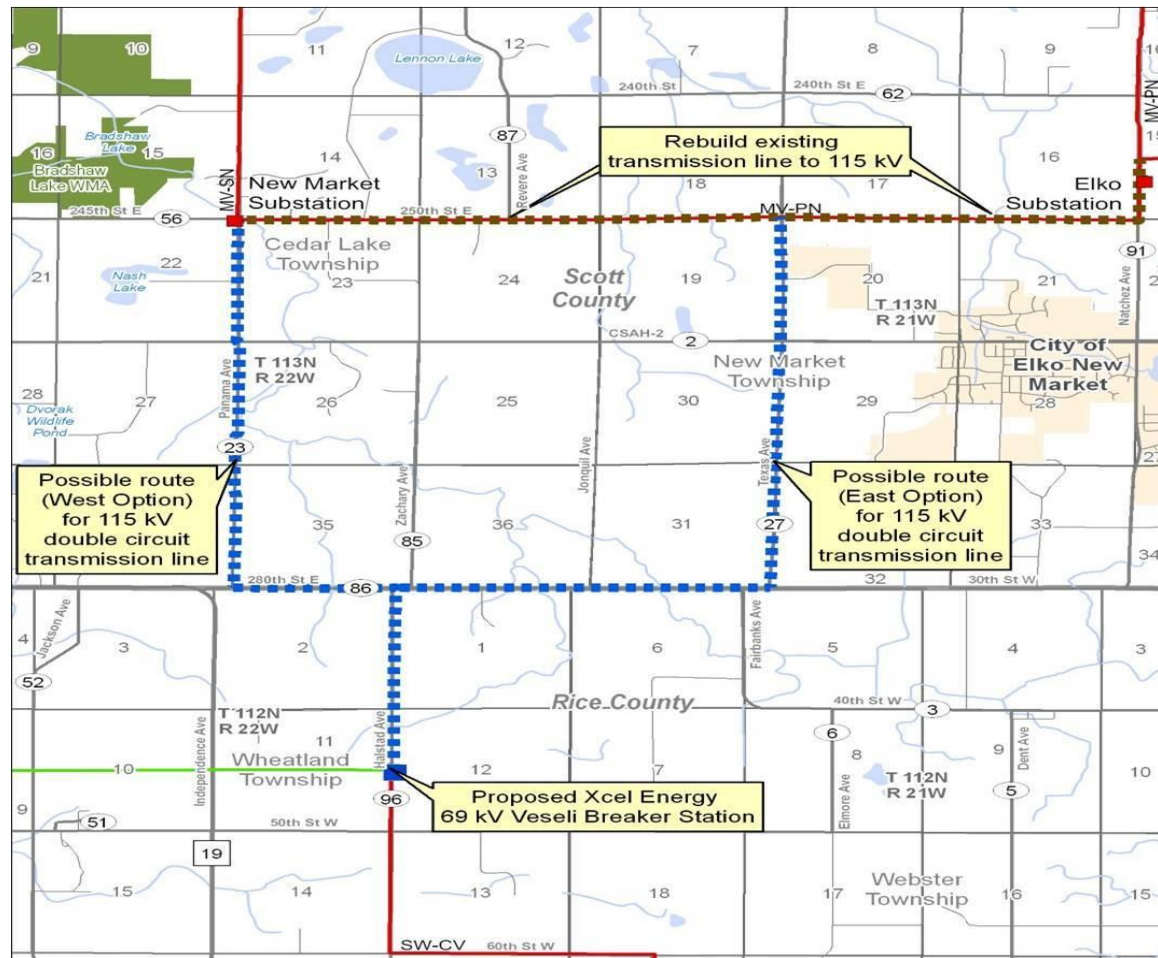
Connect the transmission lines in the Project area to the transmission system to the west, the “Scott-Faribault” system.

- Construct a new double circuit line to 115 kV standards between the existing New Market Substation and the proposed 69 kV Veseli Breaker Station.
- Rebuild existing 69 kV transmission lines to 115 kV standards.
- Operate the transmission lines at 69 kV until the system is converted to 115 kV (approximately 2022 and 2030).

Proposed Project North – Cleary Lake Area



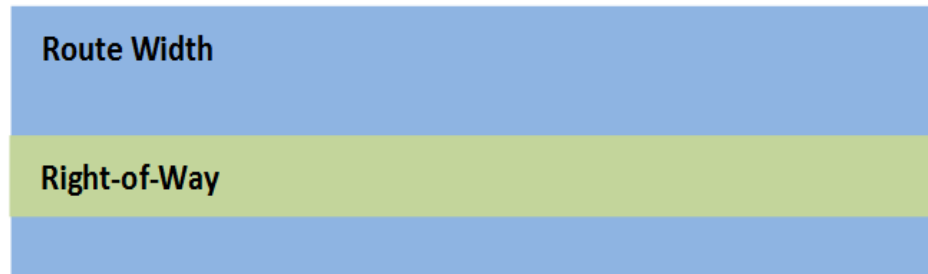
Proposed Project South – New Market Area



General Elements of Transmission Line Project

Route/Right-of-Way

- Requesting 300-foot route width.
- Within the 300-foot route width, requesting a right-of-way of up to 70 feet.
- Right-of-way of existing 69 kV transmission lines measures 28 to 70 feet in width.
- Rebuild portions may not need additional right-of-way if 115 kV facilities can be constructed within existing easement width.
- Requesting a 70-foot right-of-way for the new double circuit transmission line.



Proposed Transmission Structures

- Single pole wood structures, 52 to 92 feet above ground
- Single circuit or double circuit
- Spaced approximately 250 to 400 feet apart
- Specialty structures may be necessary based on final design



Construction Process

- Survey and stake easement centerline
- Clear trees and vegetation from easement right-of-way
- Build and place structures
- String lines
- Restore and repair damage

Department of Commerce



Environmental Review Manager
Department of Commerce
Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (EERA)
David E. Birkholz
david.birkholz@state.mn.us
Phone 651-539-1838
Toll Free 1-800-657-3794

Environmental Review

Environmental Assessment (EA)

- In Lieu of an Environmental Report

Minnesota Rule 7849.1900

- Alternative Environmental Review

Minnesota Statute 116D.04

- EERA Impartial Review

Comparative Analysis

Environmental Review

Scope of the Environmental Assessment

- Human and Environmental Impacts
- Strategies to Mitigate Impacts
- Alternatives to the Proposed Project

“A person desiring that a particular alternative or possible adverse impact of the project be considered...shall identify the alternative or impact to be included, provide an explanation of why the alternative or impact should be included... and submit all supporting information the person wants the commissioner to consider.”

Minnesota Rule 7849.1400

Environmental Review

Scope of the Environmental Assessment

- Human and Environmental Impacts
- Strategies to Mitigate Impacts
- Alternatives to the Proposed Route

“A person desiring that a particular site or route be evaluated shall submit to the commissioner, during the scoping process, an explanation of why the site or route should be included in the environmental assessment and all supporting information the person wants the commissioner to consider.

Minnesota Rule 7850.3700

EA Comments

- Verbal Comments at Tonight's Meeting
- Complete and Submit a Comment Sheet
- Comment On-Line
<http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities>
- Mail, Fax, or Email a Comment:
David Birkholz
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198
fax: 651-539-0109
david.birkholz@state.mn.us
- Comment Period Ends: **October 15, 2013**

EA Comments

- One Speaker at a Time
- Please Limit Comments to a Few Minutes
- Please State and Spell Your Name for the Court Reporter
- Maintain Respect for Others
- Direct Your Comments/Questions to the Scope of the EA



Thank you for attending